

ACS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES

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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Embassy will be closed on the following day:

August 15: (Wednesday) Korean Independence Day

The ACS Unit will be closed for routine services, including passport processing, on August 15. Please plan ahead, and enjoy the holidays!



Please be advised that the days just before and after a holiday are usually busier in the American Citizen Services Unit of the Embassy with all appointments taken. Do not be surprised at a longer wait for consular services on those days.

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2012 is available online at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p_holidays.html

CONTACT US!

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-710, Korea

- or -

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #15550
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport)
Tel: 02-397-4114 (Other Services)
DSN: 721-4114

English: www.asktheconsul.org/
Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea
Email: seoulinfoACS@state.gov

CONSULAR SERVICES OUTREACH OUTSIDE OF SEOUL

We will be conducting services in Busan on Monday and Tuesday August 27 and August 28.

During these visits, U.S. citizens can apply for U.S. passports, additional visa pages in their current passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Social Security cards. A consular officer will also offer notarial services and provide information regarding voting, federal benefits, and registration with the Embassy. The consular staff is also available to assist with emergencies involving U.S. citizens. Any questions about requirements should be directed by email to seoul_acs@state.gov.

Please note that an appointment will be required for services in Busan. Call the U.S. Embassy to schedule an appointment at 02-397-4114. Please specify that you would like to make an appointment for consular services in Busan and which date you would prefer (it can be any of those listed below). Be sure to call by noon on the Friday prior to the visit. For the August outreach, please make your appointment by Friday, Friday, August 24th at noon. Once you make an appointment, you will receive further details including location.

ALL APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

The ACS Unit began requiring appointments for all non-emergency, routine services on June 15, 2011. This is also a worldwide policy for all U.S. embassies and consulates. Routine services include passport and additional pages applications, requests for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Social Security card and benefit applications, and notarial services.

Requiring appointments for all our non-emergency, routine services means that we'll be able to serve everyone more quickly and efficiently -- it will lessen considerably the long lines and busy waiting room that we often had during non-appointment sessions. Of course, we'll always take care of U.S. citizens with emergencies whether they have an appointment or not. Please note that notarial services are not considered emergency appointments.

A: All renewal applicants age 15 and younger must appear in person with both parents at the Embassy to renew their passports. The application must be signed before a U.S. consular officer.

U.S. regulations require the consent of both parents/legal guardians for the issuance of a U.S. passport to a minor child. If only one parent submits the application for a minor child, the absent parent is required to complete a notarized Parental Statement of Consent Form DS-3053 to legally consent to the issuance of the new passport. All sections of the parental consent form must be completely filled out including the notary office information and the type of ID used for the notary process. The parent submitting the application materials to the U.S. Embassy must bring the notarized consent form along with a copy of the absent parent's ID used during the notary.

Question of the month: Q: Question of the Month: I'm traveling this summer. Do I need a visa?

Customers often ask our staff what kind of documentation they need to travel to other Asian countries while living in Korea. Entry and exit requirements are different for every country, and the State Department provides information on those requirements in the [Country Specific Information](#) (CSI). Some countries require U.S. citizens to have visas before entering; some do not. Some visas can be purchased at the port of entry; others must be applied for in advance.

So if you're travelling this summer, be sure to check the [Country Specific Information](#) for your destination at travel.state.gov. The CSI also includes other useful information, like security threats, crime trends, accessibility for individuals with disabilities, information on health resources, and traffic and safety conditions.

Before you depart on your trip, don't forget to sign up for the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). Signing up with your travel plans allows the Department of State to better assist you in an emergency.

VOTING

The U.S. Embassy will host an absentee ballot collection event in early October to assist American citizens voting in the November general elections. All U.S. active duty personnel and U.S. citizens residing in Korea should register to vote as soon as possible to ensure that they will receive their absentee ballots in time for the election. Please go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program website www.FVAP.gov for details. You may also contact the American Citizenship Services at VOTEOUL@state.gov for assistance. Remember - voting is a right and a privilege: we get the government we deserve. Vote!

Voting

Please note: This is strictly a non-partisan event. The U.S. Embassy does not endorse any particular party or candidate, and supports this event only to ensure that all American citizens who want to vote have the resources to do so. Please be sure to bring a U.S. government issued photo ID and your last U.S. address information. Also note, there will be no onsite parking available at the event. If driving, please park nearby and enter on foot.

CAUTION IN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

Itaewon and Shinchon are well known entertainment districts in Seoul that are also considered a higher-risk area for crime. Please use caution in all entertainment and nightlife districts throughout Korea.

Recently a small number of incidents involving U.S. citizens in these areas have included physical and sexual assaults, theft of purses, wallets, and drugs allegedly slipped into drinks.

USA PAVILION AT YEOSU EXPO 2012

Please visit the following website of the USA Pavilion 2012, the organization charged with designing, building and operating the USA Pavilion <http://www.pavilion2012.org/> for this summer's World Expo in Yeosu, South Korea.

Find a useful Embassy Fact Sheet for the Expo at this link:

http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p_rok_expo_042512.html

The USA Pavilion unifying themes of Diversity, Wonder and Solutions will tie into the overall Expo theme of "The Living Ocean and Coast" and will explore the vital connection between the health and well-being of cultures and communities and the future of one of our most important resources: the ocean. Through a host of exciting technologies and immersive storytelling, the 13,312-square foot USA Pavilion will highlight the diverse and dynamic nature of America's ocean and coastal environments as well as the colorful mosaic of American life. The USA Pavilion will include the following design and programming features:

A main attraction of stunning images, music and film will be projected in dazzling clarity across a 70-foot wide screen. Created around the concept of "This is My Ocean," individual voices and stories will unfold during the presentation to convey the diverse beauty of the American coastline and the many personal types of connections Americans enjoy with the vast ocean.

A large screen composed entirely of water will amaze guests when they enter the USA Pavilion.

40 American student "ambassadors" from universities and colleges around the United States will serve as guides throughout the USA Pavilion experience.

HOW TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THE NEWSLETTER

You may unsubscribe from the newsletter via the embassy website at <http://www.asktheconsul.org/> (enter your email address and click on "unsubscribe"). Or, you may send an email to: leave-seoulacs@mh.databack.com.

TRAVEL WARNINGS

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel warnings or travel alerts for the following countries and regions. If you are traveling to any of these regions in the near future, please consult travel.state.gov for more information.

Travel Warnings:

[Afghani-](#)
[stan](#) 06/27/2012
[Nigeria](#) 06/21/2012
[Haiti](#) 06/18/2012
[Somalia](#) 06/15/2012
[Philippines](#) 06/14/2012
[Mauritania](#) 05/24/2012
[Saudi Ara-](#)
[bia](#) 05/18/2012
[Lebanon](#) 05/08/2012
[Algeria](#) 05/04/2012
[Iran](#) 04/27/2012
[Cote](#)
[d'Ivoire](#) 04/23/2012
[Burundi](#) 04/18/2012
[Eritrea](#) 04/18/2012
[Mali](#) 04/09/2012
[Niger](#) 04/06/2012
[Kenya](#) 04/04/2012
[Chad](#) 03/29/2012
[Yemen](#) 03/27/2012
[Israel, the West Bank](#)
[and Gaza](#) 03/19/2012
[Syria](#) 03/06/2012
[Colombia](#) 02/21/2012
[Mexico](#) 02/08/2012
[Pakistan](#) 02/02/2012
[Iraq](#) 01/19/2012
[Congo, Democratic Re-](#)
[public of](#)
[the](#) 01/12/2012
[Sudan](#) 01/11/2012
[Central African Repub-](#)
[lic](#) 01/04/2012

[Republic of South Su-](#)
[dan](#) 12/22/2011
[Guinea](#) 11/04/2011
[Korea, Democratic Peo-](#)
[ple's Republic](#)
[of](#) 11/03/2011
[Libya](#) 09/22/2011

Travel Alerts:

[Bahrain](#) 06/26/2012
[Hurricane Typhoon Sea-](#)
[son 2012](#) 06/04/2012
[Tunisia](#) 04/17/2012
[Guinea-](#)
[Bissau](#) 04/13/2012
[Egypt](#) 03/29/2012

Worldwide Caution January 31, 2011

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

EMBASSY CONTACT INFORMATION

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U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul, Korea 110-710

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American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #15550
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport Inquiry line)

Tel: 02-397-4114 (All other services)

Fax: 02-397-4080

DSN: 721-4114

English: <http://www.asktheconsul.org/>

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea

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